(c) These reports are baseless. The three Indian companies are involved in a project for the construction of a pesticide plant in Iran. The project was awarded to the Indian companies as a result of an open, international tender in which companies from all over the World participated.

Four Nations Disarmament Conference in Goa

2482. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Four Nation disarmament conference was organised in Goa in the recent past;

(b) if so, details thereof, with its objectives;

(c) whether some suggestions on non use of nuclear weapons by nuclear weapons holding States against non nuclear States and on elimination of nuclear weapons were made;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to take some initiative in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) A four nation workshop on Global and Regional Arms Control was held in Goa from 14—19 January, 1995. The workshop was organised by the Centre for Policy Research, a Delhi based NGO, with the association of the Federation of American Scientists (USA), Fundan University (China) and Institute for Strategic Studies of Pakistan. This was an NGO activity and no Indian official attended the Goa meeting.

(c) and (f) Government's policy, on disarmament remains consistent and is outlined in India's Action Plan to usher in a Nuclear Weapon Free and Non-Violent World Order presented to the UN General Assembly's Third Special Session devoted to Disarmament in 1988. Government do not propose to take any initiative based upon the deliberations of the meeting in Goa.

Indo-US Talks on Disarmament

2483. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the US is trying to put pressure on India and a neighbouring country to give parallel undertaking to cap fissile material production and conduct no tests, much ahead of the proposed treaties to be worked out at the disarmament conference in Geneva as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 7th March, 1995;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto particularly on our differences with the US on NPT and MTCR;

(c) whether any official level dialogue between the two countries on disarmament is likely to be conducted soon so as to enable India and the US to work together to achieve the real objectives; and

(d) whether Government of India are still undecided over Goa declaration of NGO on disarmament as reported in a news-item published in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 7th March, 1995; if so, the reasons therefor and indicate their present stand on the subject?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government is aware of statement by US officials that the US would like to see India and Pakistan undertake not to produce fissile material outside of international safeguards or to test a nuclear device, in advance of final negotiations and ratification of proposed global treaties on these two issues.